[22nd March 1963

கனம் திருமதி ஜோதி வெங்கடாசலம்: இந்தப் பயிற்சி இப்பொழுது தாம்பரம் சானிடோரியத்தில்தான் நடைபெறுகிறது.

Small-pox (Ramanathapuram district)

* 334 *Q.*—SRI C. CHIRANJEEVULU NAIDU (on behalf of Sri V. SANKARAN): Will the Hon. the Minister for Public Health be pleased to state—

(*a*) whether any areas in Ramanathapuram district have been declared as affected by small-pox;

(*b*) if so, from when, and

(*c*) the steps taken by the Government to check the spread of this epidmic?

THE HON. SRIMATHI JOTHI VENCATACHELLUM: (*a*) Yes.

(*b*) From the middle of July 1962.

(*c*) Panchayat Union Councils are empowered to take preventive and control measures against the outbreak of epidemics in their areas. Immediately on receipt of a report of the incidents of small-pox, the District Health Officer, Ramanathapuram, visited the infected areas and initiated preventive and control measures on behalf of the panchayat unions concerned. The panchayat unions appointed extra vaccination staff and carried out a mass vaccination and re-vaccination drive, besides taking other measures such as disinfection, isolation of cases, etc. Health Inspectors from State Epidemic reserve were deputed to augment the local staff. An ambulance van has also been diverted for small-pox duty at Paramakudi.

SRI R. V. SWAMINATHAN: The Hon. Minister while answering the first part of the question, viz., whether any areas in Ramanathapuram district have been affected by small-pox, said 'yes'. Am I to take it that it refers to the whole district or only some areas? If only some areas have been affected, may I know the names of those areas?

THE HON. SRIMATHI JOTHI VENCATACHELLUM: The areas affected by small-pox in Ramanathapuram district are as follows: Sivaganga, Tiruvadanai, Paramakudi, Ramanathapuram and Mudukulathur. Major number of cases were reported from Paramakudi. That is the reason why effective control and preventive measures have been taken in Paramakudi.

Bridges (Salem district)

* 335 *Q.*—SRI R. S. VEERAPPA CHETTIAR: Will the Hon. the Minister for Works be pleased to state—

(*a*) whether there is any proposal to widen and straighten the narrow bridge near Hale Dharmapuri in Salem district; and